

VISITING GERMAN PROFESSOR

BY RICHARD C. SMITH

TO SEE U. S.

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LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

"Here's a curious place to find short weight," said Commissioner Driscoll of the Bureau of Weights and Measures as he closed the window of his office in City Hall. "One of the such weights in this window is too light and it does not balance with the one on the other side. That's what makes it a curiosity. I found that out the other day. A man came into my office and complained that just after he had completed his new house he had to tear out the walls and put in new ones because he hadn't got honest weight such iron. He couldn't close the windows. I investigated after that and found out the same thing was true of the windows in City Hall."

"That is a funny way you fellows have of reckoning distance," said the representative of the renting agent that the office had been under consideration for the past few seconds by local elevator from the main floor to the second floor. "Why didn't you tell what floor it is on and be done with it?"

"Because that isn't what most tenants want to know," said the agent. "It is the time consumed in going up and down that they consider first. The old fifteen minutes to Harlem, cry his echo in every big office building. Forty seconds up by local or thirty seconds by express is much more likely to land a tenant than the number of the floor."

"Here's the very top notch of infantile luxury," said a New York physician. "A wealthy family with two young children recently spent several weeks so far from New York that the milk from a certain dairy could not reach them in good condition. Previous to their departure this milk problem presented itself, and the mother was nearly distracted at the thought of her babies drinking foreign milk. Suddenly the horizon cleared, she said it. The establishment was telephoned to and it was arranged to have two of their best men sent in advance to the appointed place, with an expert milkster well versed in all the sterilizing stunts connected with furnishing milk to millions of babies. The whole outfit was ready and waiting for the family on its arrival, and these youngsters so far as I know hold the record for having a couple of cows and a special milkster travel several hundred miles rather than have their special brand of milk subject to any change."

Coroner's Physician O'Hanlon was riding in the subway recently when he drew from his side pocket of his coat his gold watch, which he had hurriedly dropped there upon getting it back from the watchmaker. He was about to fasten it to his chain and put it in his waistcoat pocket when he noticed a stranger looking intently at him. The face was familiar, and in a moment Dr. O'Hanlon recognized the stranger as a pickpocket who had been seen several times in a police court. Instead of putting his watch in his waistcoat he slipped it back into his coat pocket. Every few minutes he would look out of the window and watch the pickpocket. The pickpocket gradually shifted his position near Dr. O'Hanlon. As the train drew into the station he was immediately beside the doctor, and preparing apparently to try to sit down next to him. Again the doctor put his hand in his coat pocket, but instead of his watch he brought forth his badge of office, a shield that very much resembles the shield of a captain of police. The pickpocket looked at the badge and then at the doctor. The doctor then said, "If you should have seen that fellow get out of that train, he would have been a quickie in August wouldn't he?"

"Why it is that the black leopard will not eat in the day like the other animals in the lion house. I don't know, but she has been here for eight years and no one ever saw her eating yet," said a keeper of the Central Park menagerie.

The lions, tigers, leopards and other beasts of the cat tribe get but one meal a day. It is a very simple one, consisting of a few scraps of meat and a few scraps of fish. The animals get restless half an hour before the man with the meat wagon comes along. When the fresh food comes, they all get up and look at it. But the black leopard, which comes from Africa, shows no interest and also the man who remains unapproachable until darkness sets in. It is all gone by morning."

When every seat in the sightseeing wagon had been paid for and the lecturer opened a little box and dangled a couple of ear trumpets within sight of the passengers.

"Anybody need these things?" he said. "If you do you'd better get them now before we start and save trouble afterward. Only twenty-five cents for the trip."

A man on the back seat spoke up timidly.

"I guess I'll take one for my wife," he said. "She is kind of hard of hearing."

"Before that deal was finished another passenger put in a bid for the other trumpet."

"Both of 'em nearly every trip," said the lecturer to the passenger beside him. "They save no end of bother. In every load there are two or three dead passengers. They have to get out of the car trumpet habit, or if they do use one ordinarily they start out on one of these trips without it because they think it's only this kind of a waste of money. But when they find that they need one also, and then they pester the life out of me and the other passengers by asking us to say things over again. Since I hit them the ear trumpet routine, they live on a rubberneck wagon has lost half its terrors."

Among the luggage piled deep on the pier gleamed here and there large silver trunks and a few black boxes. The baggage man smiled. "You noticed 'em too?" he said. "I guess everybody's asked about them tags. The woman conducting this party had a time of it last year keeping track of the baggage, so this year she had some tags made. The California poppy she said they represented and now she can tell you the name of every piece of baggage together in less than a time or identify a missing one quick as a wink. With every party would do, so many for 'em. Them California poppies are all right."

"When I was chief of the New York Fire Department an eight story building was considered a mighty high structure. The word skyscraper was not used then. It was the first chief of the reorganized department, on his last visit to Fire Headquarters for his pension."

"Before the civil war I was foreman of Engine 29, which had quarters on West Tenth street, equal to the quarters of the volunteer firemen. Shea was chief after me, he was a volunteer, and so was High Bonner, who was chief after him. Shea was 46 years old, chewed tobacco, took his toll and has a remarkable memory for past experiences, which he is fond of relating. He lives in Holbrook and has been drawing a pension of \$2,500 a year since 1884."

K. of C. Scholarship in St. Peter's. The faculty of St. Peter's College, in Jersey City, have announced that examinations for the Knights of Columbus free scholarship will be held in the college on Thursday morning, September 1. The examination is open to all who have completed the first year of high school or the first year of college. The one who receives the highest general percentage will be entitled to an eight year free course at the college.

MRS. LOEBINGER DISCHARGED

MAGISTRATE WON'T HOLD HER ON MRS. MURTAGH'S PLEA.

Even Conceding All That Complainants' Witnesses Would Swear To, There Is No Case—Can't a Lady Guest of the Hoffman House Be on Vacation?

Mrs. Sofia Loebinger walked out of the Yorkville police court yesterday freed of the charge made against her by Mrs. Sarah Alice Cunningham Murtagh, who had accused her of the larceny of \$125. There was disappointment among many women supporters of Mrs. Murtagh who had come to court to testify for Mrs. Murtagh because Magistrate Sullivan declined to hear them after Mrs. Loebinger's lawyer had said that he would concede anything they would have testified to.

The proceedings were the outcome of the fictional war among the suffragettes in East Twenty-third street. Mrs. Murtagh having charged Mrs. Loebinger with obtaining \$125 from her on the false representations that the National Woman Suffrage Union was incorporated and that Mrs. Loebinger was its treasurer. Mrs. Loebinger came to court with her brother and counsel, David Neuberger, and Miss Mary Coleman. Mrs. Neuberger's lawyer, Mr. Neuberger, had a long talk to cross-examine Mrs. Murtagh and he wanted to know if she lived at the Hoffman House, which she had given in the court papers as her residence. She said that she did and the lawyer called Col. Peacock, clerk of the Hoffman House, who testified that Mrs. Murtagh had not been a guest there since June 9. Mrs. Murtagh wanted to know if a lady could not be on vacation and still have a town address, a question which was not adjudicated.

To a question whether she had not some fifteen cases in court in which she made charges against lawyers, judges and other persons Mrs. Murtagh replied majestically that she was a witness for the State and for the United States and that until she had testified in court in those cases she would refuse to tell Mr. Neuberger what cases she was interested in. "I am a witness for the Government against men higher up," she said, but the identities of the Messrs. Higher Up were not disclosed.

To a question by Mr. Neuberger as to whether she had not been forced by the police of Washington to quit the city on short notice because of her attempt to compromise two congressmen, a Senator Mrs. Murtagh answered, "No. I was a nurse in the family of Secretary Hitchcock."

Asked if Mrs. Loebinger had sworn on the Bible that she was treasurer of the National Woman Suffrage Union, Mrs. Murtagh made the response, "No. What would a Bible be doing among politicians?"

Mrs. Murtagh still under cross-examination, said that she had given the \$125 to Mrs. Loebinger to help pay the expenses of a magazine which was to be published for the purpose of paying the organization's rent and that the rent was \$125. When Mrs. Loebinger had not sent back the money she said only a part of it had been sent back and that she wanted the full sum. Counsel asked her if a signature to a letter which he handed her was hers and she answered, "My name has been forged to stocks and my stock was stolen. This may be another signature that has been forged."

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NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Rehearsals Soon to Begin for Lillian Russell's New Play. Lillian Russell will begin rehearsals for her new play, "In Search of a Sister," by Charlotte Thompson, next Monday at the Liberty Theatre. Miss Russell will begin her season at Powers Theatre in Chicago on September 19.

Edith Talfer, who is to play Rebecca in "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," which comes to the Liberty Theatre in October, is the guest of the author, Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, for her summer home, a quietude near Hollis. The scenes of the book and play are laid in and about this Maine village, so that Miss Talfer is absorbing atmosphere by her vacation there. The name of the play, which is written for the Belasco offices, is "Nobody's Widow."

Blanche Ring, who is to play in "The Blue Bird," will be the guest of Blanche Ring's company in the play, which is to be produced at the Park on August 26. Young Ring passed his preliminary examinations for entering Harvard this fall, but determined to follow the example of other members of his family.

The opening attractions for Nazimova's Thirty-third Street Theatre will be "Miss Patsey," which is to be produced by the management of Henry W. Savage. This will open September 5.

On August 29 "Madame X" will begin its second New York season at the Lyric Theatre, where it will remain to the end of its metropolitan run. "Madame X" and "Miss Patsey" are the first Savage productions to be seen in New York city in Summer.

Rehearsals of "The Upstart," by Tom Barry, which is to be the opening attraction at Maxine Elliott's Theatre, beginning on September 5, will be held at the Lyric Theatre. Mary Elizabeth Forbes will be opposite Mr. Farnum in the role of Adele Randall. Frank Tannhill will be Larry Bower, Mississippi River gambler and last partner of Camo.

The New Theatre directorate has invited Maurice Maeterlinck, author of "The Blue Bird," to produce his play at the American premiere of the play on September 26. As the opening comes during warm weather it is hoped Maeterlinck will visit New York. He is a Belgian and could not be persuaded to make the voyage later than November.

George Ade, the humorist, has prepared the scenario of a comedy for William H. Crane. It will be called "U. S. Minister Jackson." The scenes are laid at Garibania, a seaport capital city of one of the small South American republics. Crane will be the Minister.

SQUIRREL AT THE GOTHAM.

Transient and Not Paying Guest Raises Brief Excitement.

Sometimes they entertain angels and foreign noblemen unawares at the Gotham, but night before last a gray squirrel started down Fifth avenue from Central Park looking for something to eat. He had hardly struck the hotel when he made everybody on the ground floor of the building sit up and take notice.

According to John T. McDickrick, the assistant manager of the hotel, the visitor first made his appearance on the terrace about half past nine o'clock, when that part of the hotel and the main dining room were filled with those who were just getting away with their coffee and liqueurs.

In the extreme corner of the terrace at Fifty-fifth street was a party of men who were not counting their glasses of cordials and strong things that had been ordered by the hotel before dinner, and one of them was just lifting a balloon glass of fine old Napoleon to his lips when he started, set the glass down with a crash and exclaimed, "Great Snakes!"

"Where?" exclaimed his companions. "There, in those bushes," replied the other, pointing to the boxed geraniums and shrubbery that cover the rail of the terrace.

Sure enough, something was darting in and out of the stalks of the plants, but it only took a second to draw a chorus of "A Squirrel!"

There was a movement toward Hill Street's prize legal force to cross-examine Mrs. Murtagh and he wanted to know if she lived at the Hoffman House, which she had given in the court papers as her residence. She said that she did and the lawyer called Col. Peacock, clerk of the Hoffman House, who testified that Mrs. Murtagh had not been a guest there since June 9. Mrs. Murtagh wanted to know if a lady could not be on vacation and still have a town address, a question which was not adjudicated.

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ROOSEVELT AT CONVENTION

COLONEL WILL PROBABLY GO TO REPUBLICAN GATHERING.

Nassau Neighbors Likely to Make Him a Delegate. He's Unconvinced, but Thinks He'll Talk if He Does Attend. Will Confer More With Pinchot.

There is very little doubt that Mr. Roosevelt will be on hand for the Republican State convention at Saratoga next month. The Colonel had luncheon and a conference with County Clerk Lloyd C. Grierson yesterday, and announced afterward that he was considering the idea of attending. He did not say that he was certain of going, but it is understood that he will.

Friends of the Colonel in Nassau county have been after him for a long time urging him to attend the convention as a delegate. It has been suggested frequently that Mr. Roosevelt should act as temporary chairman, but this he will not discuss, because he does not know what he will do in case the place were offered to him. It is known that Mr. Roosevelt is deeply interested in the State situation in New York. He has said so on several occasions.

When the Colonel was questioned in regard to this matter yesterday he replied that he really could not say anything definite. He thinks, however, that he will go to the convention, and if he does he may make a speech. The advent of Mr. Roosevelt at the convention was discussed by politicians in town and it was generally conceded that a blunt expression of his personal opinion at Saratoga would do a whole lot toward stirring things up.

The reception room of the Outlook office was not crowded yesterday, although the Contributing Editor was on the job. He turned away a few visitors because he wanted to devote as much time as possible to the writing of his speeches for the Western trip. He even let Jacob S. Coxey, the noted Ohio hobo general, get away without seeing him.

Only one Senator called. Stephen B. Elkins of West Virginia dropped in to pay his respects. He said that he had been asked to go to the convention, but he did not go into much of a discussion on politics. The Contributing Editor made no comment on the Senator's call and thus it stood. As he stepped into the elevator, going down, Senator Elkins said that everything is in fine shape politically in his part of the country.

A couple of sleuths wearing rubber soled shoes caught Gifford Pinchot entering the office of the Contributing Editor by the back door. Mounting Mr. Roosevelt's name and the name of the editor, he said to allow suspicion of devils that might be hatched behind closed doors. When he came out after a long talk with the editor, he said that he had come simply to tell the Colonel that he would be unable to reach Saratoga Hill next evening as he had planned. He said that he would be there tonight. It is supposed that Mr. Roosevelt will confer with Mr. Pinchot in regard to the conservation speeches he will make. James H. McHenry will not be there. He has left for Ohio.

The Colonel promised a R. E. Sunny of Chicago that he would address the Union League Club of that city at the next birthday party. He talked with ex-Gov. John S. Woodruff of Connecticut, Isaac Ullman, a Republican leader in New York, and C. M. More of New York, Hugh T. Halbert of St. Paul and J. N. Evans of the Hamilton Club of Chicago. Gen. Coxey, who led the West Army from Washington to Washington, was disappointed that he could not see the Colonel. He merely wanted to say howdy. Coxey remarked upon leaving that he had a long talk with the Colonel and that he would know whether or not he would vote for him in 1912. These things did not touch the ears of the Contributing Editor.

Later in the afternoon Mr. Roosevelt motored back to Oyster Bay. He intends to confer with Pinchot over Sunday and to work hard until he leaves for the West.

DYSEN A PEEFER STOP.

Book Store Goes Out of Business, French Books Not Being in Demand.

The first firm in this city to carry on the business of selling French books exclusively went out of business yesterday and from today its doors will be closed forever. This was the firm of Dyssen & Pfeiffer, which has been for some years at 16 West Thirty-third street. They were successors to Christern, who was known in this city for more than half a century. He has been dead now for twenty-five years, and his successors, who are associated with him, carried on the business under his name, but later adopted the title by which they are known to the present generation.

Frederick W. Christern was a native of Holstein and was not French, as many persons supposed. He came here fifty-four years ago and established in the old Astor House the first store devoted exclusively to the sale of French books for this city ever had. He prospered and the business was later moved to 50 Broadway, then to University place just south of the South Street station, and from there to Broadway and Seventeenth street before it finally landed in Thirty-third. The stock has been sold to an uptown dealer and the last of the old Christern book store has been sold.

"There was no more money in the business," Paul Dyssen told a SUN reporter yesterday. "We have to sell now in New York for seventy-five cents a book which is sold in Paris at sixty-five, and that makes the margin of profit too small. Besides, people who buy French books no longer are usually the people who go to Paris, and they prefer to buy them there. No more French schoolbooks are brought over here, as they are now printed in this country. But the real reason for the failure of our business after so many years was the fact that the present generation doesn't seem to be book buyers. The children of our old customers on whom we used to rely to buy handsome editions are now all investing in automobiles or aeroplanes. So it seemed best to close the business. It was too late to try the business."

Mr. Dyssen does not expect to resume the business anywhere else and will probably retire.

Recommends Divorce for Mrs. Rose. A referee's report recommending a divorce to Frances J. Rose, known on the stage as Frances Cameron, from Julian Rose, the monologist, was filed in the County Clerk's office yesterday. The testimony showed that a friend of